

12. **REMISSION OF RATES – HOME & FAMILY COUNSELLING & EDUCATION CENTRE -  
56 BARRINGTON STREET**

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The purpose of this report is to seek Council approval for a remission of rates under the provisions of Section 179 of the Rating Powers Act 1988 in respect of the above property.

The Home and Family Society lease the property at 56 Barrington Street from the Council for sole use as emergency accommodation for women and children.

The mission statement of the society states “the Home and Family Society seeks, through counselling, education and supported accommodation, to enhance and enrich the lives of individuals and families from all economic and cultural backgrounds by offering programmes designed to empower and encourage individual self esteem and create positive home environments in which children can reach their full potential”.

The society aims to provide affordable counselling to families or individuals covering a range of issues including relationship problems, custody and access issues, depression, anxiety, stress and anger management. It offers accommodation for mothers and their children through a supported accommodation programme which is designed to offer a place to live as well as providing living skills, parenting and personal development opportunities at reasonable cost.

The Home and Family Society also offers a range of personal development and education group programmes as well as ongoing support groups.

Established in 1908, the Home and Family Society is an independent, non-statutory social service agency having a long history of service to the people of Christchurch and the surrounding districts. All social work and counselling staff members receive recognised training and clinical supervision and belong to relevant professional associations.

The society qualifies for a remission of rates under Clause (n) of Part I of the Second Schedule of the Rating Powers Act which provides that a local authority may remit rates on land “owned or occupied by or in trust for any Society or Association of persons, whether incorporated or not, whose object or principal object ----- is to promote generally the arts or any purpose for recreation, health, education, or instruction for the benefit of residents or any group or groups of residents of a district”.

The Council's practice has been, in relation to similar applications, to grant a 33.3% remission, examples being Odyssey House (a drug rehabilitation centre), Presbyterian Support Services (daycare centre), St Vincent de Paul Society (emergency accommodation) and the Child Cancer Foundation (family centre).

**Recommendation:** That the Council grant a 33.3% remission of rates under the provisions of Section 179 of the Rating Powers Act 1988 in respect of the property at 56 Barrington Street occupied by the Home and Family Society Incorporated, with effect from 1 July 2000.

**Chairman's Recommendation:** That the above recommendation be adopted.